

The readings we continue to hear from St. John are taken from what are called “The Farewell Discourses.” Which, actually occur in John’s Gospel during the Last Supper.

In the weeks after Easter, we heard from the other Gospels where Jesus, after the Resurrection, speaks of the supernatural gift of peace.

In today’s reading He says:

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.*

*Not as the world gives do I give it to you.*

Several Sunday’s ago, I peeled open this tricky word: Peace, and it’s many layers of meaning through the ages.

The peace of God, we hear, “surpasses all understanding,” according to St. Paul.

In today’s First Reading, we reach the exact midpoint of the Acts of the Apostles. At this point, there is a shift: from the idealized community living out the Christian life, to the reality of persecution and worldly interference. St. Paul says:

*It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships  
to enter the Kingdom of God.*

Whether our hardships are the persecutions felt by Christians in the Middle East, or in the communist regions of Asia ... or the hardships are the inner struggles of the heart and mind we experience in the West ... the remedy for these – for the disciple of Jesus Christ – is the Peace that he bestows on us ... the Peace we inherit as this generation of followers of Jesus.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray to truly embrace His divine gift of Peace.